

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
25 March 2004 (25.03.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2004/024508 A2

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: B60R 11/00

(74) Agent: ANDERSON, SCOTT, D.; FOLEY & LARDNER, 777 E. Wisconsin Avenue, 33rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-5367 (US).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2003/028922

(22) International Filing Date:

12 September 2003 (12.09.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/410,226 12 September 2002 (12.09.2002) US

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): JOHN-SON CONTROLS TECHNOLOGY COMPANY [US/US]; 49200 Halyard Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 (US).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(72) Inventors; and

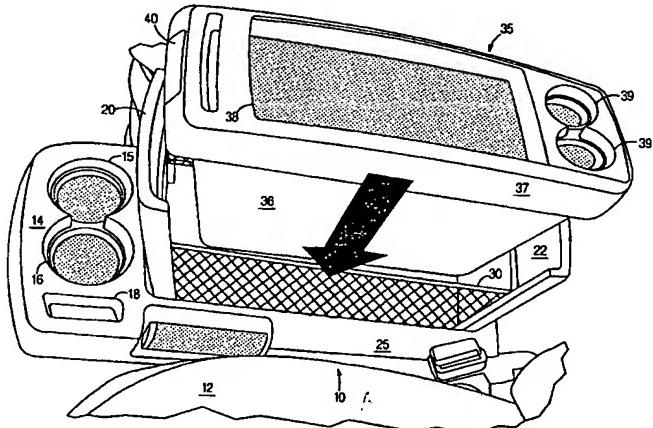
Published:

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): CLARK, Kenneth, M. [US/US]; 2827 Bonny Brook Dr., Howell, MI 48843 (US). DUFF, Richard, S. [US/US]; 2645 Greenstone Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326 (US). FLOWERTDAY, Craig [US/US]; 13995 Fox Trail Drive, Holland, MI 49424 (US).

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: FLOOR CONSOLE



WO 2004/024508 A2

**(57) Abstract:** A low profile floor console for a vehicle includes a pair of end walls. In a lowered position, the console permits passage through between two spaced apart vehicle seats. When raised, fabric or netting attached, together with the end walls define a storage area. In the preferred embodiment, an add-on module fits over the raised end walls to provide a rigid storage area, and additional functionality, such as a tray, a power port, cup holders, change bins, and the like. The lid of the module may be configured for sliding or pivotal movement to allow access to the interior thereof. Also in the preferred embodiment, the floor console is constructed to trim out a parking brake assembly. In various alternate embodiments, the floor console end walls may be constructed to provide additional functionality, such as internal map pockets, and the console system may be arranged for use at different locations within the vehicle, such as in the cargo area. The add-on console modules may additionally provide a variety of functionality besides storage, such as a cooler, a kid's module, a baby module, an infotainment module, a work module, and the like. Two or more of the floor consoles of the present invention may be used between different seating rows within a vehicle or at other locations in the vehicle.